AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) An implement handle graspable by a hand of an intended user and connectable to an implement head, said hand including a thumb, an index finger, a middle finger, a ring finger and a small finger, each extending from a palm, each of said fingers including a pair of corresponding finger lateral surfaces and a corresponding distal pulp; said implement handle comprising:

- a generally elongated and substantially rectilinear body defining a body longitudinal axis, a body forward end for connection to said implement head and a longitudinally opposed body rearward end; said body also defining a body top surface and a substantially opposed body bottom surface;
- said body defining an encirclable section located intermediate said body forward and rearward ends, said encirclable section being configured and sized so as to be graspable between at least a portion of said palm and at least a portion of at least either one of said middle, ring or small fingers at least partially encircling said encirclable section;
- said body top surface being provided with an identifiable thumb rest area located intermediate said encirclable section and said body forward end for contacting at least a portion of the distal pulp of said thumb, said thumb rest area defining a rest area forwardmost location;

- said body bottom surface being provided with a substantially concave indentation defining an indentation surface located intermediate said encirclable section and said body forward end for contacting at least a portion of one of said finger lateral surfaces of said index finger with the latter in substantially perpendicular relationship with said body longitudinal axis;

- said indentation surface having a substantially arcuate cross-sectional configuration defining an indentation first end located substantially adjacent said encirclable section and an indentation second end located substantially adjacent to said body forward end, said indentation second end defining an indentation end point; said body defining a cross-sectional first reference plane extending in a substantially perpendicular relationship with said body longitudinal axis and intercepting said indentation end point, said indentation surface being configured and sized so that at least a section of said indentation surface is positioned forwardly relative to said first reference plane; and

- said encirclable section having a substantially fusiform configuration tapering towards said body rearward end and tapering forwardly towards both said thumb rest area and said indentation;

- whereby, in use, said intended user is able to position said thumb so that said distal pulp thereof abutingly contacts said thumb rest area and to position said middle, ring and small fingers such that said middle, ring and small fingers are wrapped around said encirclable section for pressing said encirclable section against said palm while said index finger is positioned in said indentation with at

least a portion of said one of said finger lateral surface thereof and said pulp section thereof in abuting contact with said indentation surface.

2. (original) An implement handle as recited in claim 1 wherein said thumb rest area is longitudinally offset relative to said indentation, said thumb rest area being located substantially forwardly relative to said indentation.

3. (original) An implement handle as recited in claim 2 wherein

- said indentation surface defines an indentation surface forwardwost location;
- said body defines a cross-sectional second reference plane intercepting both said indentation surface forwardmost location and said rest area forwardmost location;
- said second reference plane being angled relative to said first reference plane by a first-to-second reference plane angle.

4. (original) An implement handle as recited in claim 3 wherein said first-to-second reference plane angle has a value of between approximately 20 degrees and 80 degrees.

5. (original) An implement handle as recited in claim 1 wherein said thumb rest area has a substantially oval configuration with the long axis of the oval configuration substantially aligned with said body longitudinal axis.

6. (original) An implement handle as recited in claim 5 wherein said thumb rest area has a substantially concave configuration.

7. (original) An implement handle as recited in claim 1 wherein said thumb rest area has a substantially saddle-shaped configuration.

8. (original) An implement handle as recited in claim 1 wherein said thumb rest area is topographically different then an area adjacent thereto so as to facilitate differentiation thereof.

9. (original) An implement handle as recited in claim 1 wherein said thumb rest area is recessed relative to an adjacent area thereof so as to facilitate differentiation therewith.

10. (original) An implement handle as recited in claim 1 wherein said thumb rest area protrudes relative to an adjacent area thereof so as to facilitate differentiation therewith.

11. (original) An implement handle as recited in claim 1 wherein said thumb rest area has a different surface texture then that of an adjacent area thereof so as to facilitate differentiation therewith.

12. (original) An implement handle as recited in claim 11 wherein at least part of said thumb rest area is provided with a friction enhancing surface texture.

13. (original) An implement handle as recited in claim 12 wherein said at least part of said thumb rest area is provided with friction enhancing protrusions extending therefrom.

14. (original) An implement handle as recited in claim 1 wherein said thumb rest area is provided with a visually distinguishable thumb area edge so as to facilitate differentiation thereof relative to an adjacent section thereof.

15. (original) An implement handle as recited in claim 14 wherein said thumb area edge includes a peripheral rim.

16. (original) An implement handle as recited in claim 1 wherein said encirclable section has a substantially convex configuration, said encirclable section being configured and sized for substantially conforming to the substantially concave configuration of said palm when said encirclable section is grasped between said palm and said middle, ring or small fingers encircling said encirclable section.

17. (previously presented) An implement handle as recited in claim 1 wherein

- said encirclable section defines an encirclable section top apex and an encirclable section bottom apex;
- said indentation surface defines an indentation surface nadir;
- said thumb rest area defines a thumb rest area nadir; and

- a sum of distances between said indentation surface nadir and said body longitudinal axis and between said thumb rest area nadir and said body longitudinal axis is about 45 percent or less of a sum of distances between said encirclable section top and bottom apexes and said body longitudinal axis.

18. (original) An implement handle as recited in claim 1 wherein said encirclable section has a substantially asymmetrically flattened fusiform configuration with the transversal cross-sectional configuration of said body top surface having a greater radius of curvature then that of said body bottom surface.

19. (currently amended) An implement handle as recited in claim 1 wherein

- said indentation surface defines an indentation surface nadir;
- said thumb rest area defines a thumb rest area nadir; and
- a sum of distances between said indentation surface nadir and said body longitudinal axis and between said thumb rest area nadir and said body longitudinal axis is substantially smaller than a distance over which said handle extends in a direction substantially perpendicular to said body longitudinal axis and to a direction leading from said thumb rest area towards said indentation substantially adjacent said indentation surface.

20. (previously presented) An implement handle as recited in claim 17 said distance between said indentation surface nadir and said body longitudinal axis is

substantially smaller than said distance between said thumb rest area nadir and said body longitudinal axis.

21. (original) An implement handle as recited in claim 20 wherein said bottom abutment section is made out of a substantially resilient material.

22. (original) An implement handle as recited in claim 20 wherein said bottom abutment section is made out of an elastomeric resin.

23. (original) An implement handle as recited in claim 20 wherein said bottom abutment section extends at least partially across said encirclable section.

24. (original) An implement handle as recited in claim 20 wherein said bottom abutment section extends at least partially across said indentation surface.

25. (original) An implement handle as recited in claim 20 wherein said bottom abutment section extends at least partially across said encirclable section and at least partially across said indentation surface.

26. (original) An implement handle as recited in claim 1 wherein at least part of said body upper surface further defines a thumb positioning section located substantially adjacent said thumb rest area, said thumb positioning section being configured and sized for allowing at least part of said distal pulp of said thumb to

abuttingly rest on said thumb rest area while said encirclable section is grasped between at least a portion of said palm and at least a portion of at least either one of said middle, ring or small fingers at least partially encircling said encirclable section.

27. (original) An implement handle as recited in claim 26 wherein said thumb positioning section at least partially encircles said thumb rest area.

28. (original) An implement handle as recited in claim 26 wherein said thumb positioning section encircles said thumb rest area and has a substantially saddle-shaped configuration, said thumb rest area being offset forwardly within said thumb positioning section.

29. (original) An implement handle as recited in claim 26 wherein said thumb positioning section is made out of a different material then that of an adjacent area.

30. (original) An implement handle as recited in claim 29 wherein said thumb positioning section is made out of a substantially resilient material.

31. (original) An implement handle as recited in claim 29 wherein said thumb positioning section is made out of an elastomeric resin.

32. (original) An implement handle as recited in claim 29 wherein said thumb positioning section is surrounded by a positioning section peripheral rim.

33. (original) An implement handle as recited in claim 1 further comprising a spacing section for spacing said fingers from said implement head, said spacing section extending between said body forward end and between both said indentation and said thumb rest area.

34. (original) An implement handle as recited in claim 33 wherein said spacing section had a substantially frusto-conical configuration.

35. (original) An implement handle as recited in claim 1 wherein said body is provided with a body aperture extending transversally therethrough, said body aperture being positioned substantially adjacent said body rearward end.

36. (original) An implement handle as recited in claim 1 wherein said thumb rest area is visually identifiable.

37. (original) An implement handle as recited in claim 1 wherein said thumb rest area is tactually identifiable.

38. – 44. (cancelled)